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HENRY DWIGHT BARROWS.

Henry Dwight Barrows was born in Mansfield, Conn., February 23, 1825. Died in Los Angeles, August 7, 1914, in the ninetyeth year of his age. His ancestors came from England to Plymouth Colony. His mother's name was Bingham, of a good old family.

Mr. Barrows' boyhood was spent on a farm; he received a good, thorough English education in the common schools and academies of Tolland County, Conn. He taught school several winters, commencing when only seventeen years old. Early in life he acquired a strong love for music, which he cultivated as he had opportunity, learning to play on any instrument he could get hold of. He became leader of the local brass band when only eighteen years old; was very fond of books, and loved to read all that was best in literature.

He went to New York in 1849, and to Boston in 1850, where he was employed in bookkeeping for the large jobbing firm of J. W. Blodgett & Co.; during his residence in Boston he enjoyed all the best lectures and music of that center of intellectual activity.

The "California Fever" having broken out all along the Atlantic coast, and in many places reached an acute stage, Mr. Barrows decided to cast his lot with the Argonauts for the new El Dorado, as the glittering tales from here were too persuasive to withstand. He left Boston, where he then was employed, for his old home in Connecticut on April 1, 1852, to prepare for the contemplated trip. He sailed from New York for Panama on the 26th of the same month on the steamer Illinois, bound for the Isthmus, together with as many passengers as the old craft could carry—not accommodate—in a stormy passage. The crossing of the Isthmus, in a tropical climate, with insufficient means of transportation, was a journey of hardships, deprivations and misery which has long been unpleasantly historic. The journey from Panama to San Francisco was uneventful, but slow; arriving in San Francisco, Mr. Barrows found it a busy whirl of gold seekers from the world over, with but little regard as to how it might be secured.

He soon started out for the northern mines, the Shasta region. Being a book lover, a scholar, a music lover, with thorough instincts of the guild, and no desire or love for the wild life in a gold-mining camp, he sought for and obtained—having enjoyed

fair success as a miner—a position as teacher of music at the Collegiate Institute at Benicia, even then a flourishing educational establishment, amid the wild orgies of a gold hunting period. He remained there during the greater part of 1854.

While in Benicia the late William Wolfskill, who had removed here from Solano County, engaged him to teach a private school in his family in Los Angeles, and he came here in December, 1854, and continued teaching for the following four years.

It was here that Mr. Barrows acquired that love for the California Spanish people and their language and ways of living which made him the broad-minded and liberal man he was. He loved to converse with the old-time Spanish Californians in their own language, and was ever their friend and champion.

On November 14th, 1860, Mr. Barrows married Mr. Wolfskill's oldest daughter, Juanita Wolfskill. She died January 31st, 1863, leaving one daughter, Alice, who became the wife of Henry G. Weyse. Mrs. Weyse died November 6th, 1893.

In 1861 Mr. Barrows was appointed United States Marshal for the Southern District of California by President Lincoln, which office he held for four years.

In 1864 he engaged in the hardware business, in which he continued for about fifteen years. Mr. Barrows married Mrs. Mary Alice Workman, daughter of John D. Woodworth and the widow of Thomas H. Workman, who was killed by the explosion of the steamer *Ada Hancock* in the Bay of San Pedro, April 23rd, 1863. Mrs. Barrows died March 9th, 1868, leaving two daughters, one of whom is living, Mrs. Rudolf G. Weyse. Mr. Barrows was married a third time to Bessie A. Green, by whom he had one son, Harry Prosper Barrows.

For many years Mr. Barrows took an active part in public education. He was many times member of the Board of Education. In 1867 he was elected City Superintendent, and in 1868 County Superintendent of Schools.

He was a frequent writer for the local and other papers on economic and social questions. A close watcher of current events, he to the last retained his faculties to a remarkable degree. He has written many sketches of the lives of Pioneers of Los Angeles, most of whom he knew personally. In 1888 he was President of the Historical Society of Southern California, of which he was one of the founders, and to the publications of which he has contributed many valuable papers. He was one of the charter members of the Society of Los Angeles Pioneers.

Such in brief is the personal history of one of the best and most upright men ever known in California, and whose memory will be enduring to his many warm and intimate friends. Upright in every

walk of life, true to his instincts of manhood and civic righteousness, he was identified with every measure and movement for the betterment of conditions in society and public affairs.

Being an accomplished scholar, a great reader, and close observer, no one was better acquainted with California history and local affairs, and his every ready and trenchant pen was active in presenting a record of events and persuasive arguments for clean and wholesome administration in all things. Many a paper of literary merit prepared by Mr. Barrows will be preserved in the publications of the Historical Society and the Pioneer Society, of which he was President in 1901.

Mr. Barrows was a charter member of the Historical Society of Southern California. He took an active part in its founding. He was faithful in attendance at the meetings. His contributions form a large part of the nine volumes of its collection. Mr. Barrows is the last but one (J. M. Guinn) of the founders of the Society.